

MARVEL

JAMES PATTERSON

005

MAX RIDE

FINAL FLIGHT

HOUSER • FAILLA • ROSENBERG



MAXIMUM RIDE DOESN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HER PAST.

SHE KNOWS ABOUT THE **LAB** WHERE SHE WAS GIVEN WINGS AND THE ABILITY TO FLY. SHE KNOWS ABOUT **JEB**, THE MAN WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR EXPERIMENTING ON HER. SHE KNOWS THAT SHE HAS TO PROTECT THE REST OF **THE FLOCK** -- FANG, NUDGE, IGGY, GASMAN, AND ANGEL -- AT ALL COSTS.

AND SHE KNOWS THAT SHE HAS ONE MISSION: TO SAVE THE WORLD.

JAMES PATTERSON

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ADAPTED FROM THE NOVEL *MAXIMUM RIDE: SAVING THE WORLD AND OTHER EXTREME SPORTS* BY JAMES PATTERSON



MAXIMUM RIDE AND THE **FLOCK** HAD BEEN LIVING A PEACEFUL, IF NOMADIC, EXISTENCE, BELIEVING THE THREAT OF THE ITEX CORPORATION WAS BEHIND THEM. MAX AND FANG WENT OFF IN SEARCH OF A PERMANENT HOME, BUT THE REST OF THE FLOCK WAS KIDNAPPED IN THEIR ABSENCE. THE SEARCH FOR THEIR FAMILY LANDED MAX AND **FANG** AS PRISONERS, TOO, BUT THE WHOLE CREW ESCAPED WITH THE HELP OF **ARI**, AN ERASER AND FORMER ENEMY OF THE FLOCK.

FREE ONCE MORE, THE FLOCK SPLIT INTO TWO FACTIONS, WITH FANG, **IGGY** AND **GAZZY** TRAVELING TO SPREAD THE WORD OF THEIR ONGOING STRUGGLE VIA THE MEDIA, WHILE MAX, **ANGEL**, **NUDGE**, **TOTAL**, AND **ARI** TOOK THE FIGHT TO ITEX'S VARIOUS FACILITIES. SNEAKING IN TO THE MAIN HEADQUARTERS, MAX AND HER TEAM WERE SPOTTED BY ITEX'S DIRECTOR, WHO LAID A SHOCKING TRUTH ON MAX: THAT SHE IS MAX'S MOTHER!

NUDGE WAS ABLE TO GET A MESSAGE OUT TO FANG AND CREW, WHO NOW RACE TO THE RESCUE. MEANWHILE, SINCE MAX AND THE FLOCK REFUSED TO COOPERATE WITH THE DIRECTOR AND HER PARTNERS IN THE BY-HALF PLAN--ITEX'S SCHEME TO WIPE OUT HALF THE WORLD'S POPULATION--ITEX HAS MOVED FORWARD INTO THE NEXT PHASE OF THEIR GENETIC ENGINEERING, EVIDENCED IN THEIR NEWEST SPECIMEN: **OMEGA**.

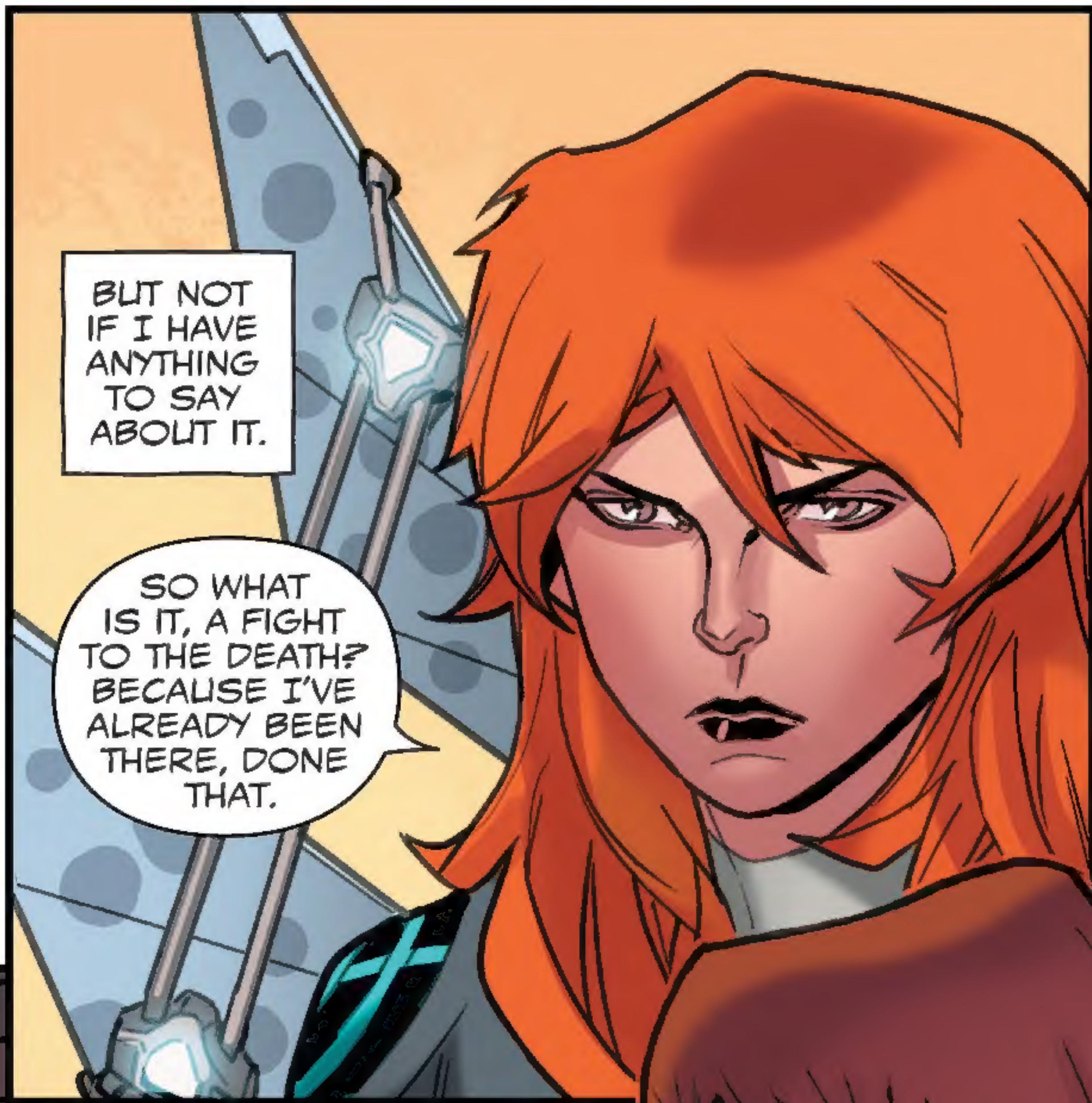
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STRENGTH.

ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE FLOCK ARE FAR STRONGER THAN HUMANS.

BUT OMEGA ISN'T HUMAN. WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY MADE HIM OUT OF?

HM...MAYBE I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT AFTER ALL.

...OR
MAYBE
I DO.

WINNER:
OMEGA!

SPEED.

THIS IS GETTING RIDICULOUS.

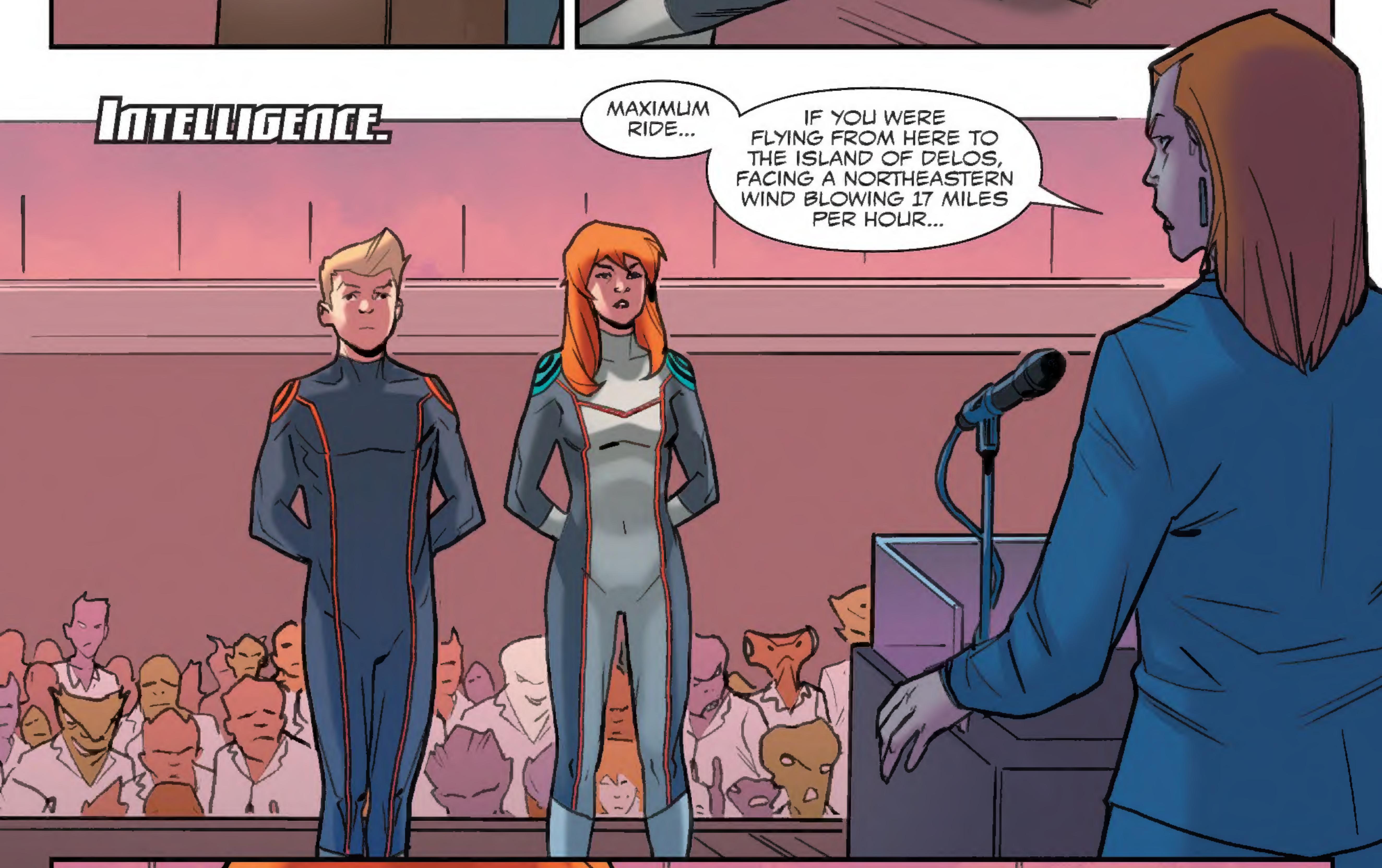
SURE, THE FLOCK IS FAST. BUT WE DON'T EXACTLY TRAIN FOR RUNNING.

GO MAX!

KICK HIS STUPID BUTT!

WHY RUN...

...WHEN YOU CAN FLY?



I HOPE FANG AND THE OTHERS GOT MY MESSAGE.

WELL, AT LEAST WE KNOW THIS IS THE RIGHT PLACE.

HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET IN THERE? WE CAN'T TAKE ON THAT MANY FLYBOYS.

ANYONE MIND TELLING THE BLIND GUY EXACTLY HOW BAD THE ODDS ARE?

HEY, LOOKS LIKE WE AREN'T THE ONLY ONES WHO SHOWED UP TONIGHT.

AGAIN WITH THE LOOKING. SO INSENSITIVE.

THAT CROWD IS DEFINITELY HERE FOR SOMETHING.

LET'S FIND OUT WHAT IT IS.

IT'S HIM!

FANG!

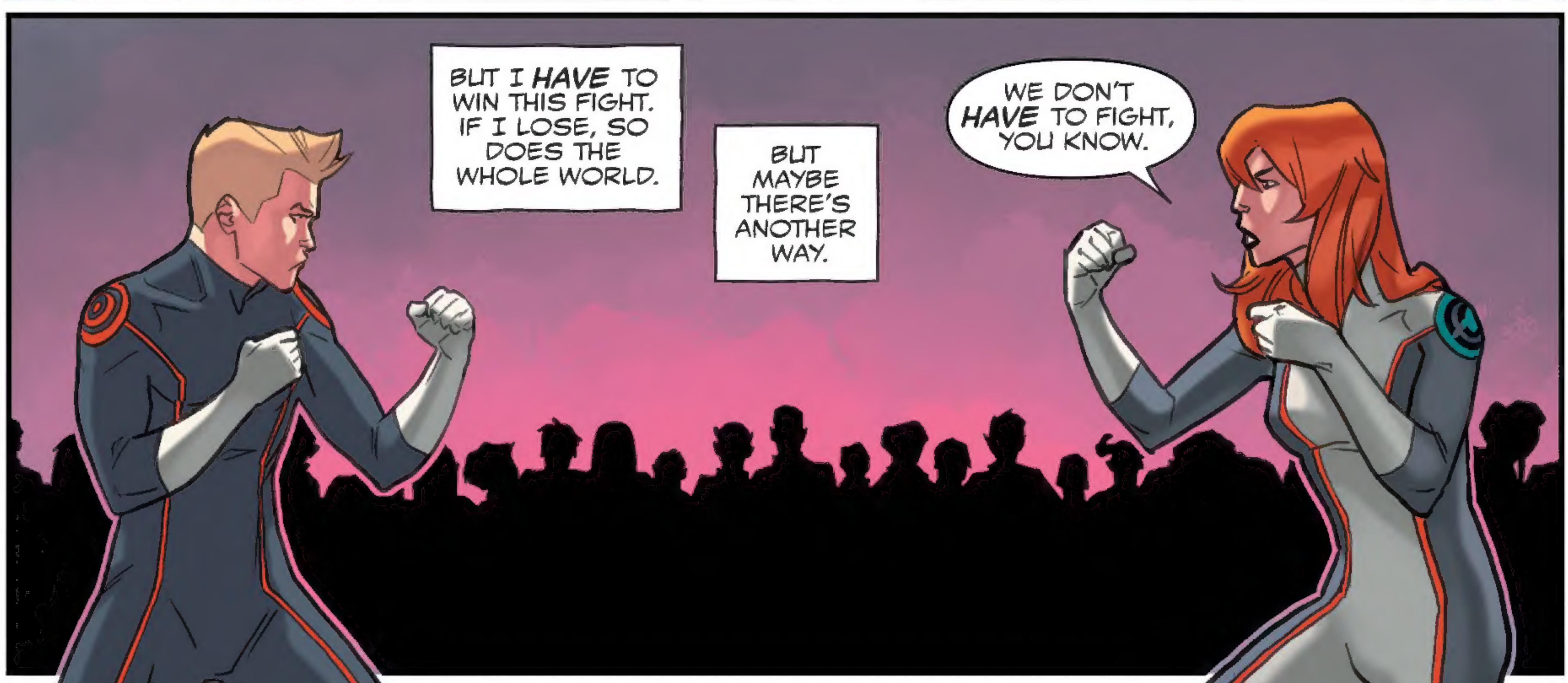
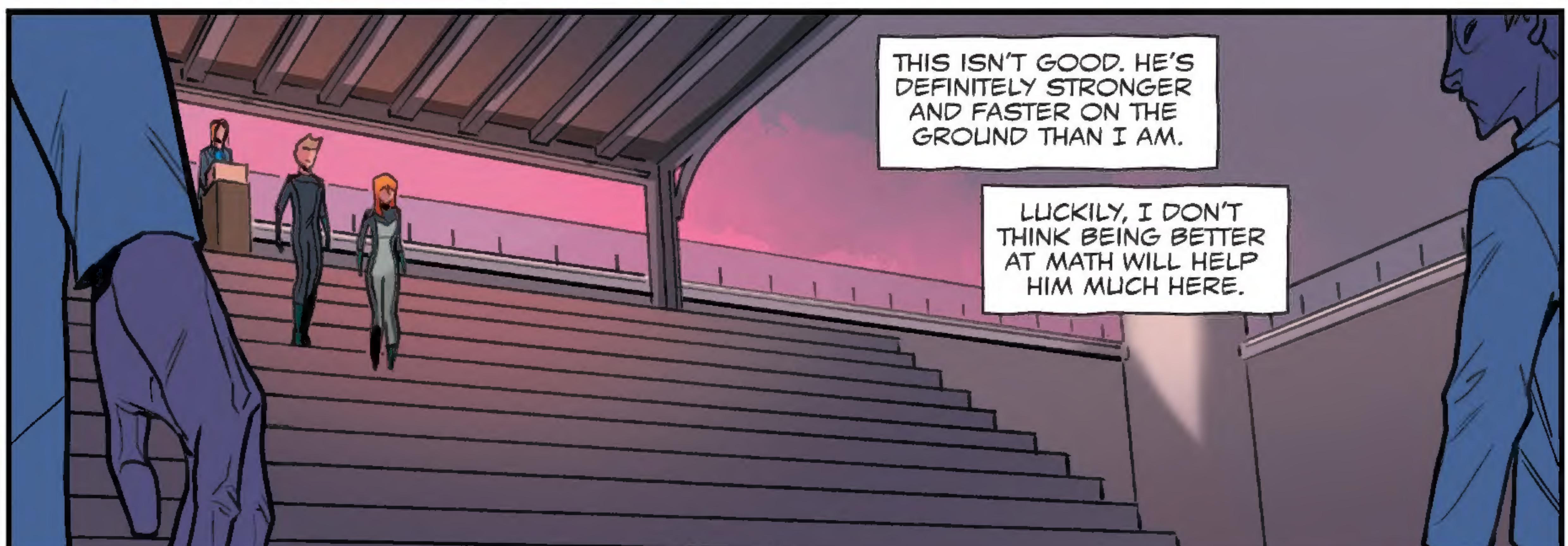
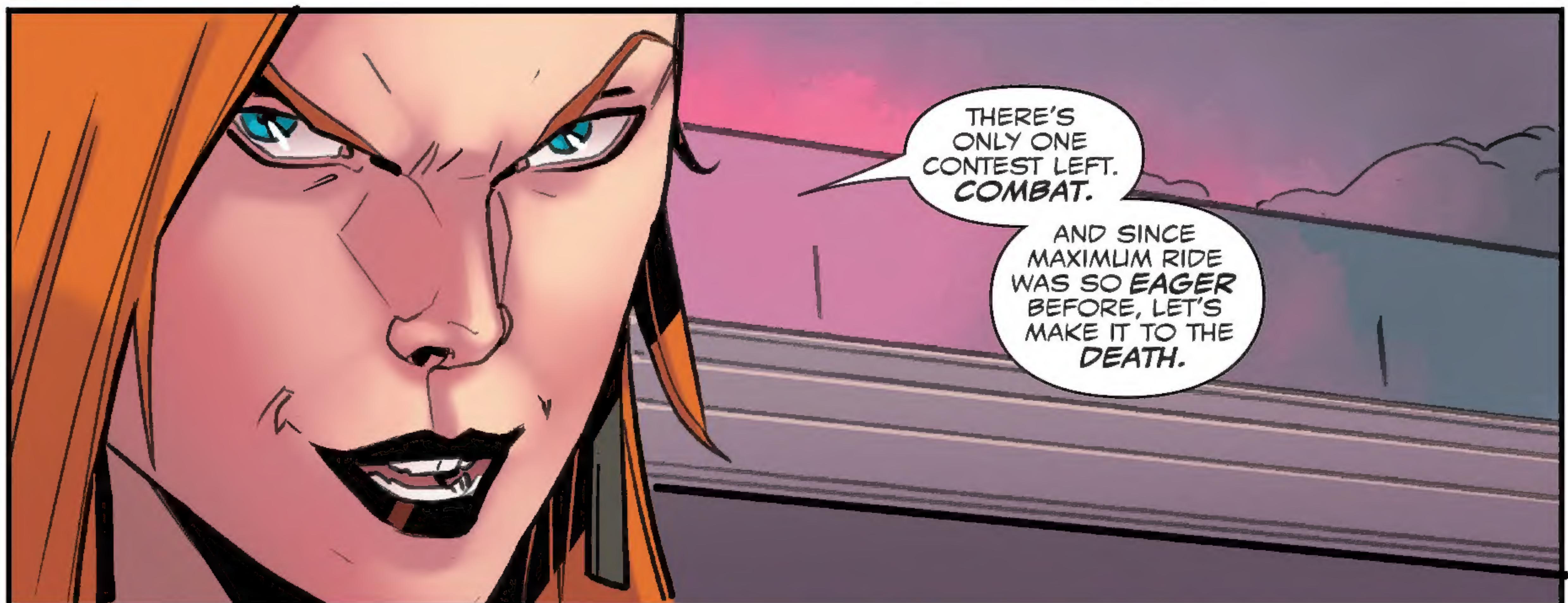
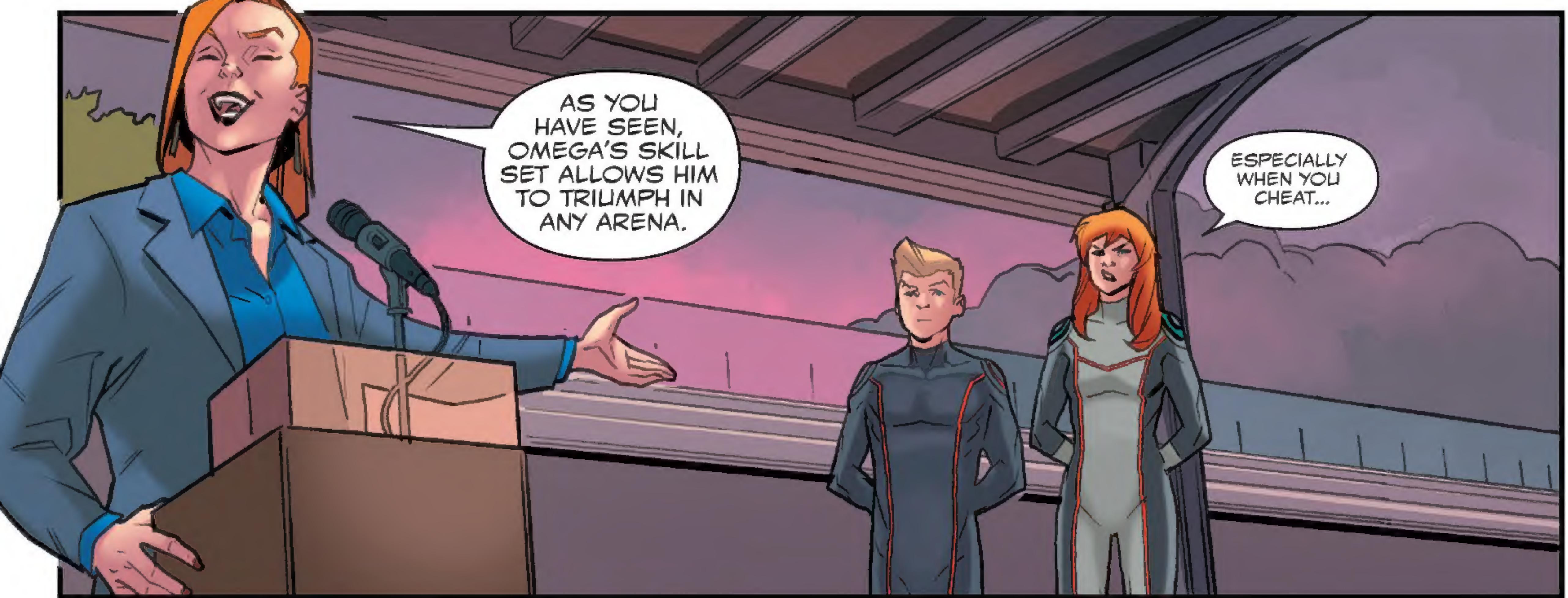
HE'S REALLY HERE!

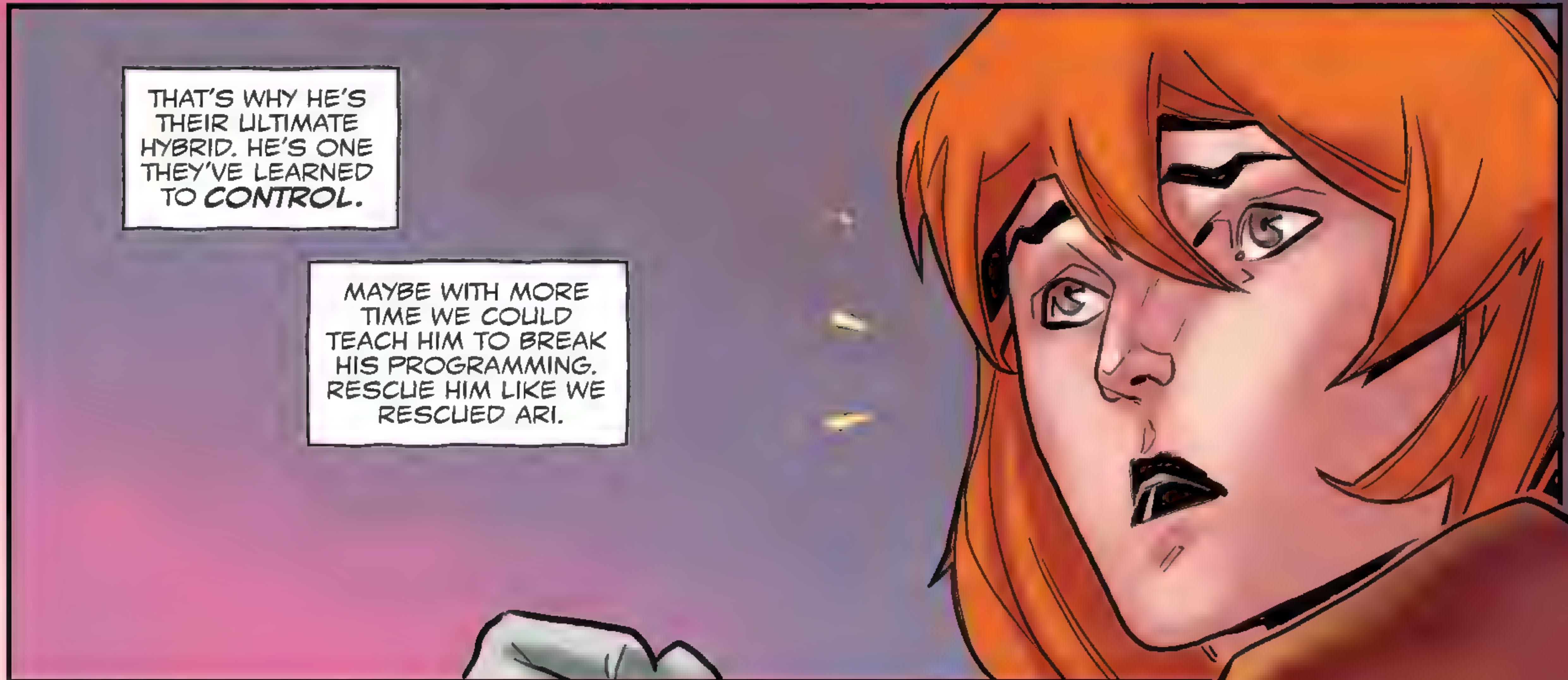
...EVEN CUTER IN PERSON...

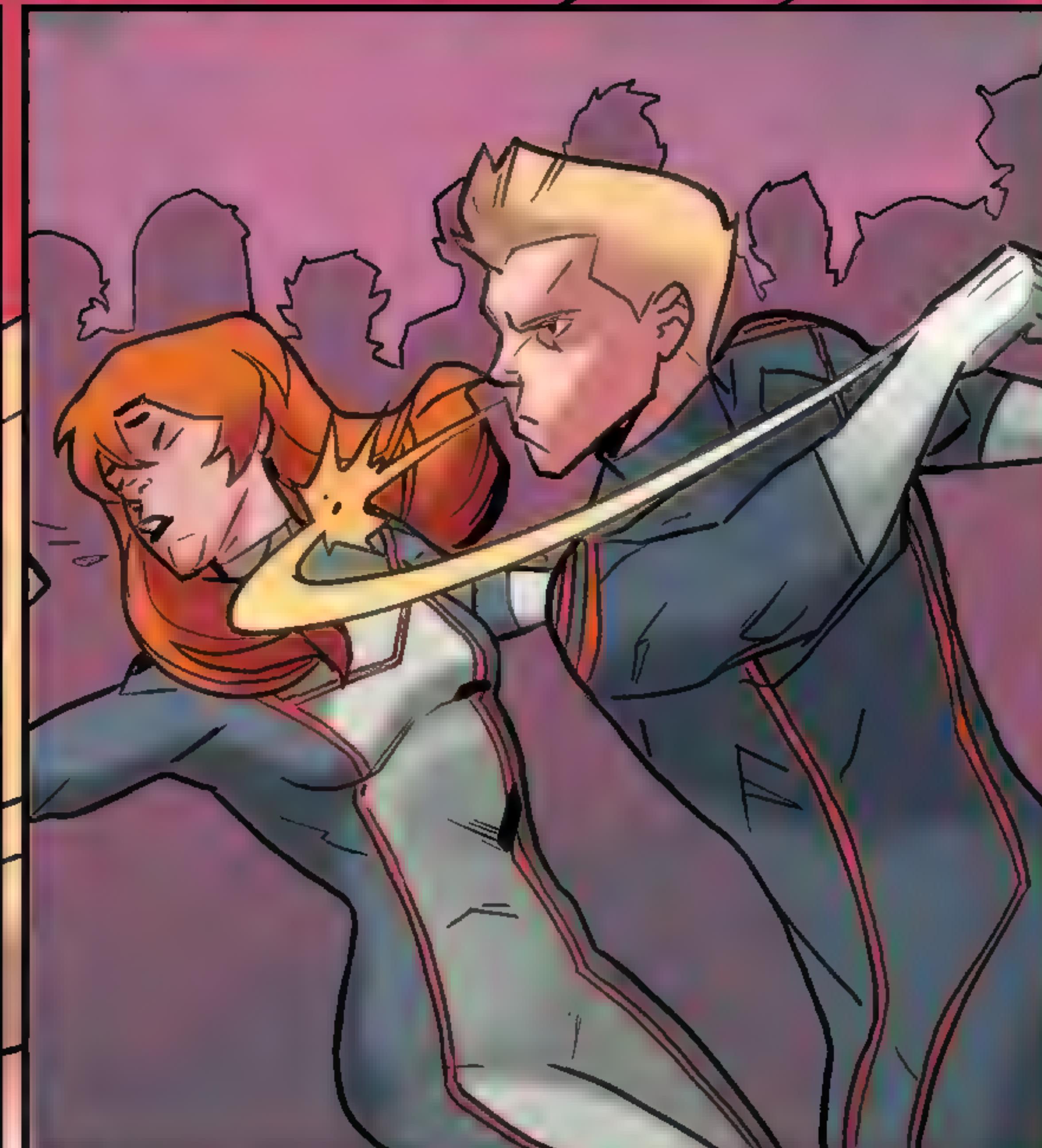
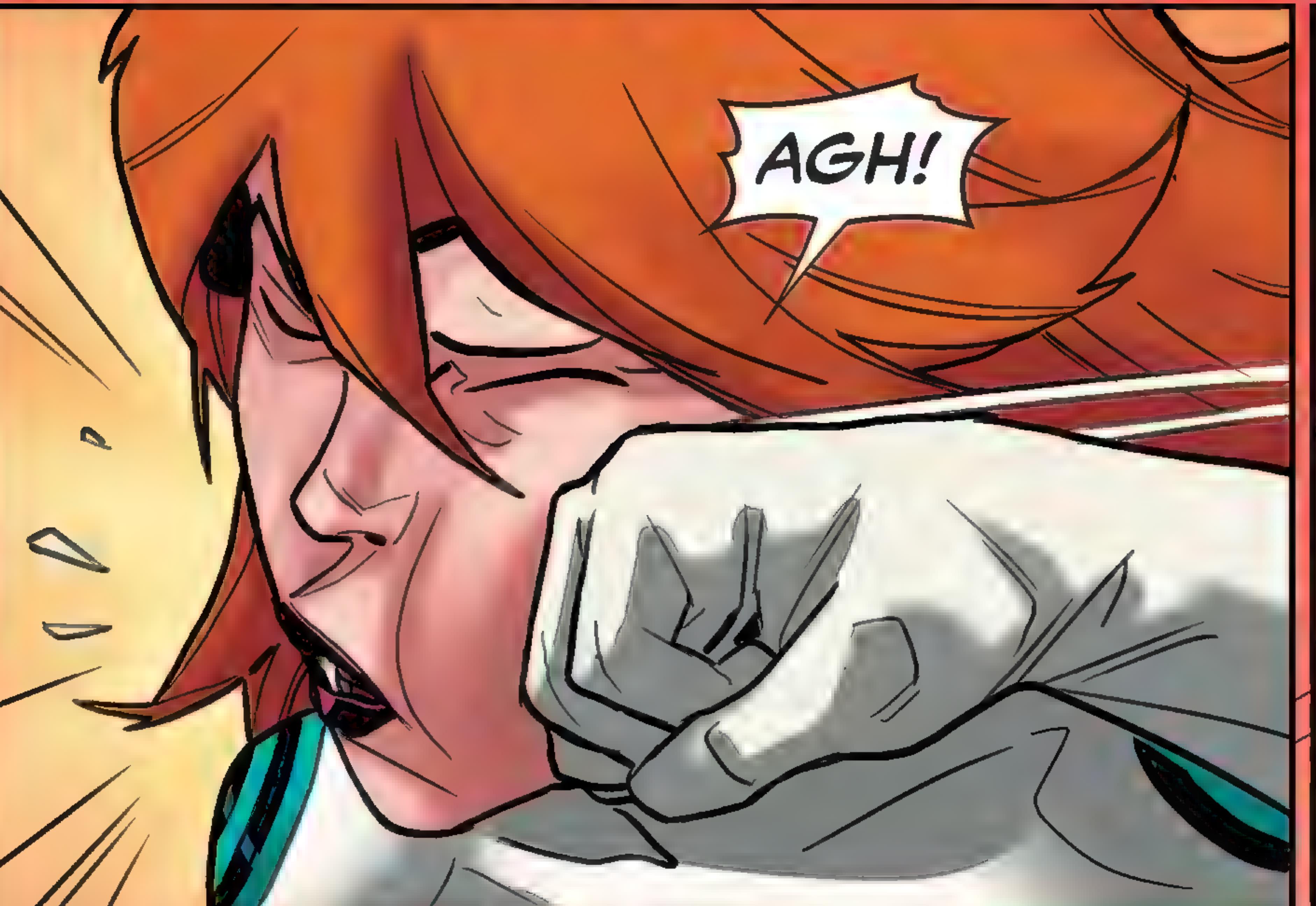
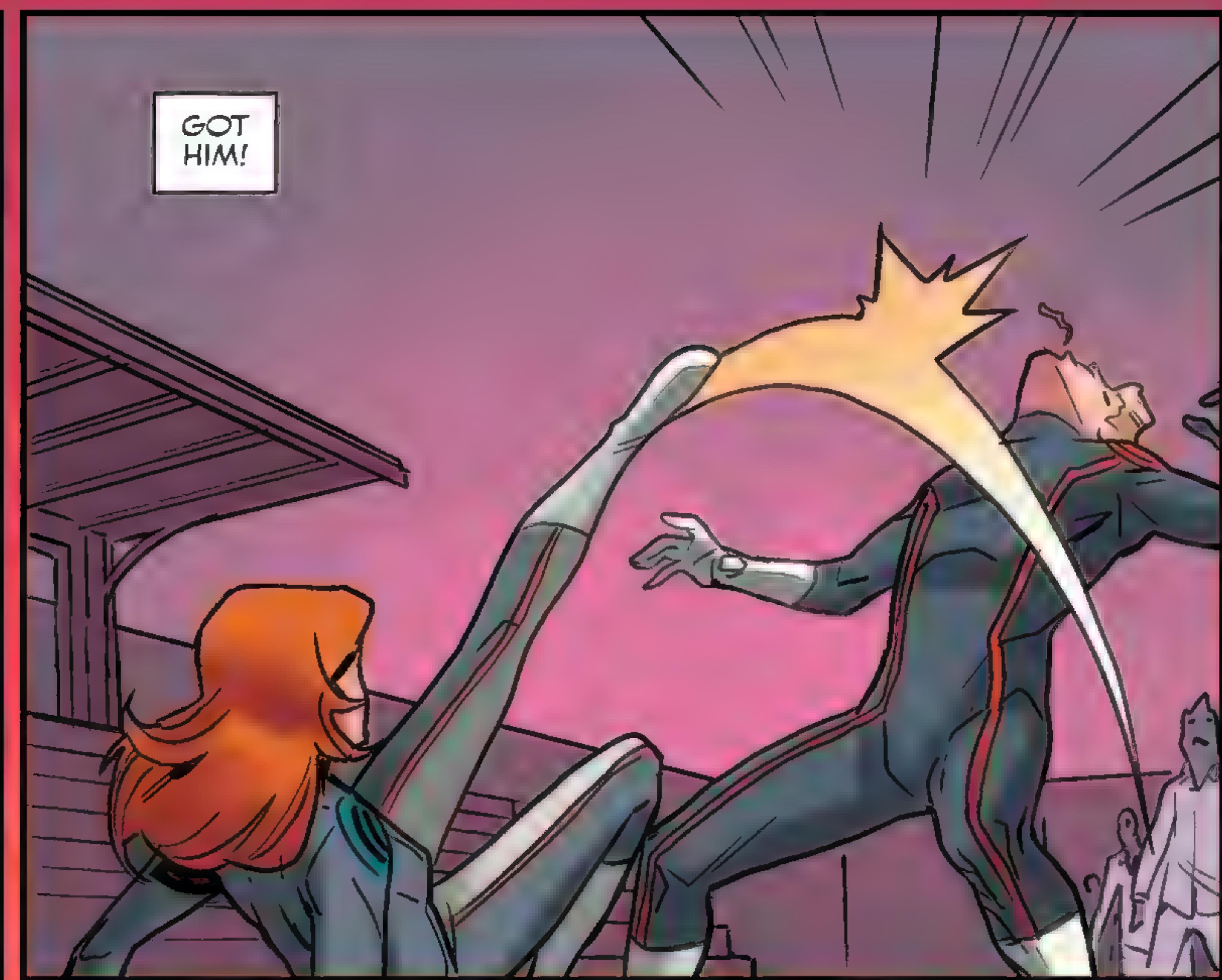
FANG

TOLD YOU COMING WAS A GOOD IDEA!











ARI...HIS EXPIRATION DATE...

ARI!

I DIDN'T THINK...

JEB LET THEM DO THIS TO ARI. HIS OWN SON.

I DIDN'T THINK HE CARED ENOUGH TO CRY.

...I'M SORRY, JEB.

I'M GLAD HE...HE WAS ABLE TO...

MAX. YOU HAVE TO FINISH THIS FIGHT WITH OMEGA.

I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN BEAT HIM.

THE WHOLE WORLD NEEDS ME TO, BUT HE'S TOO STRONG...

EVERYONE HAS A WEAKNESS, MAX.

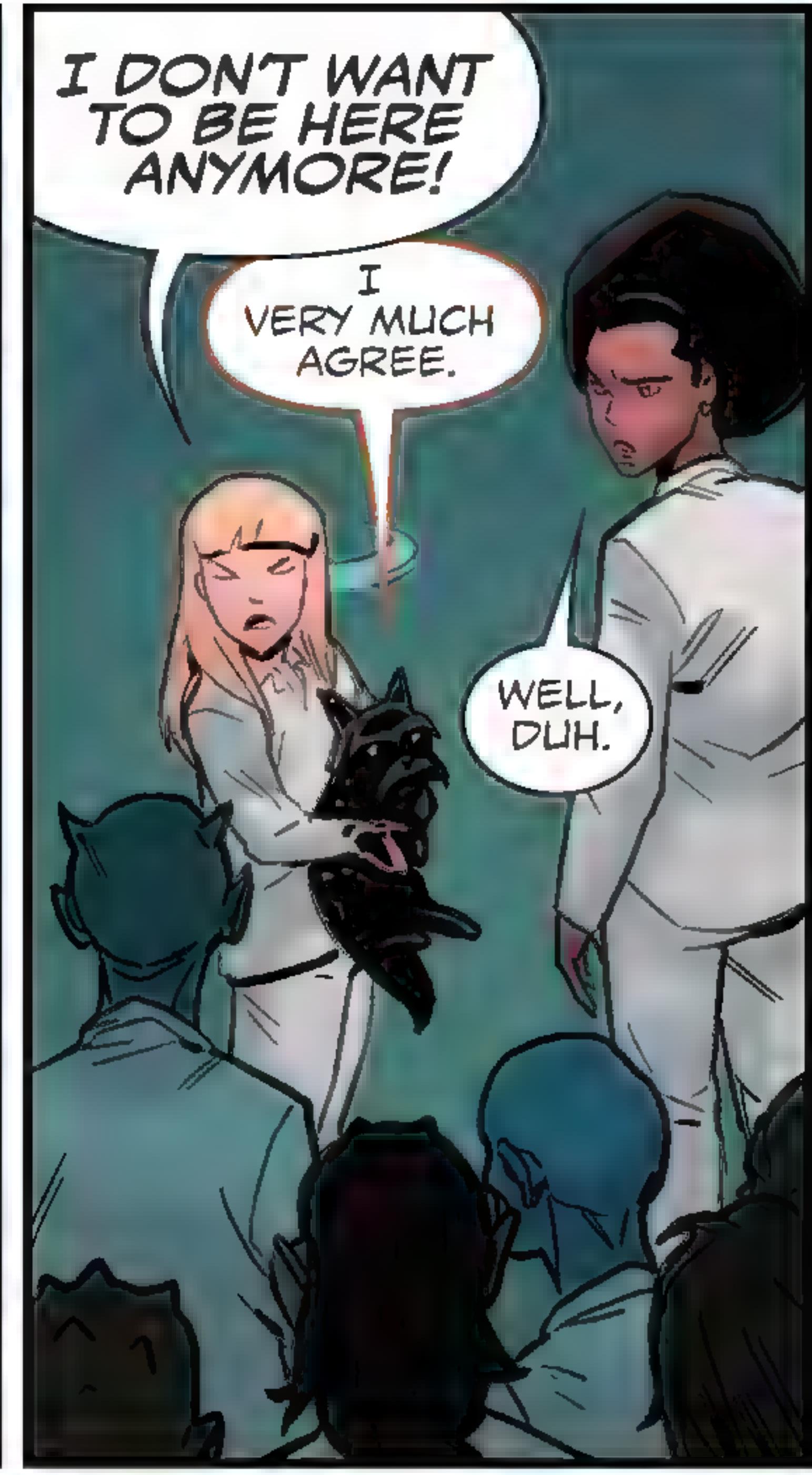
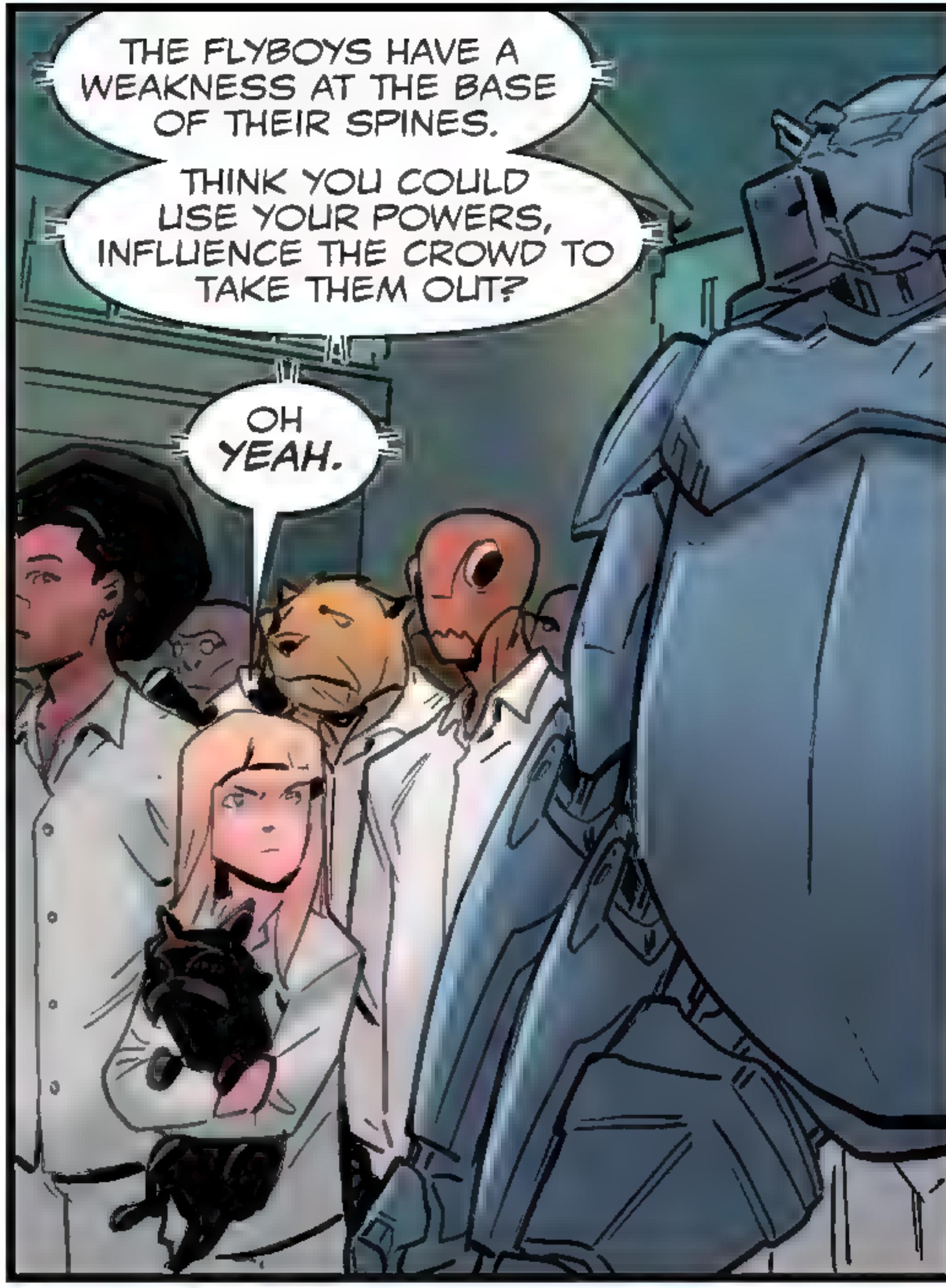
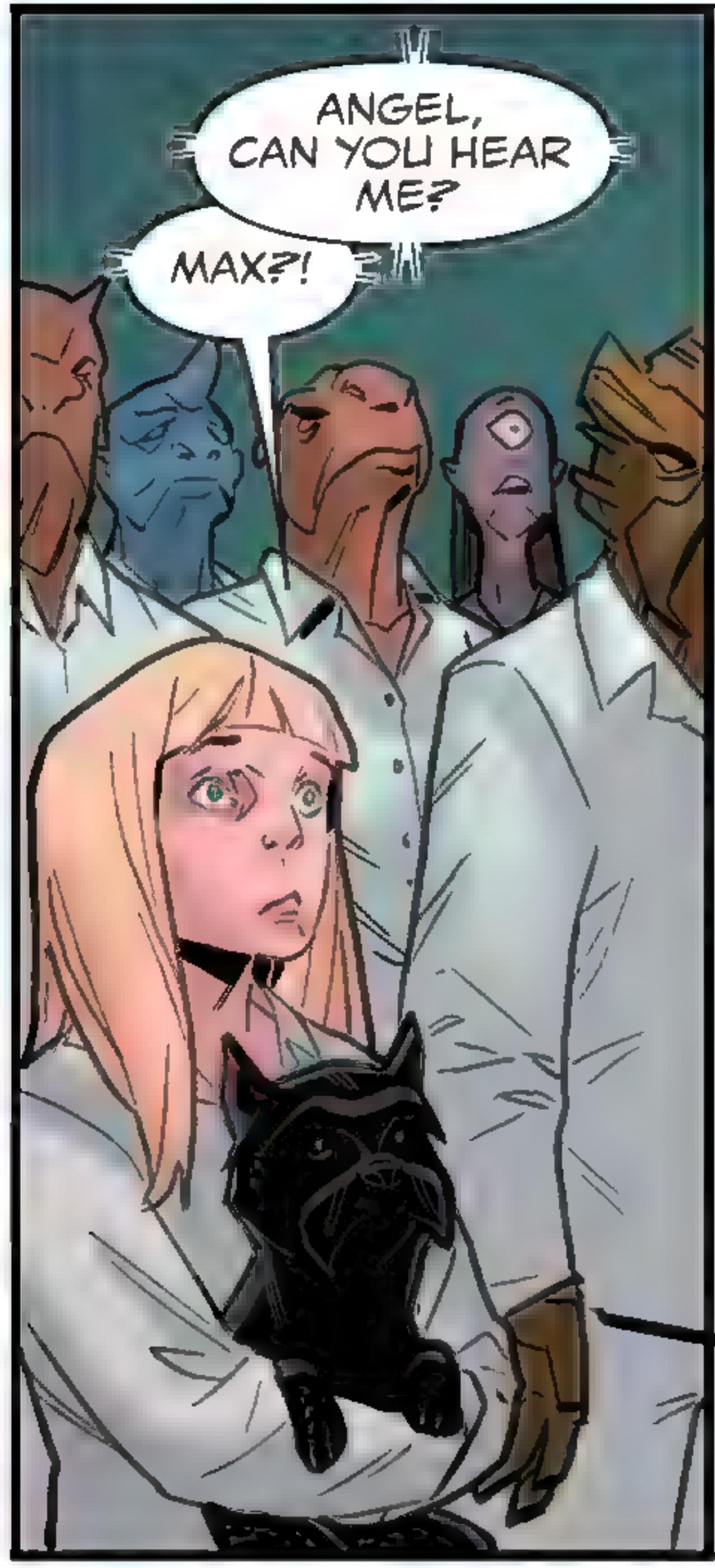
BUT THIS WAY, I CAN TELL YOU WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW WITHOUT THE DIRECTOR KNOWING.

I MADE SURE OMEGA CAN'T TRACK FAST MOVEMENTS. A BUILT-IN FLAW THAT PLAYS TO YOUR POWERS.

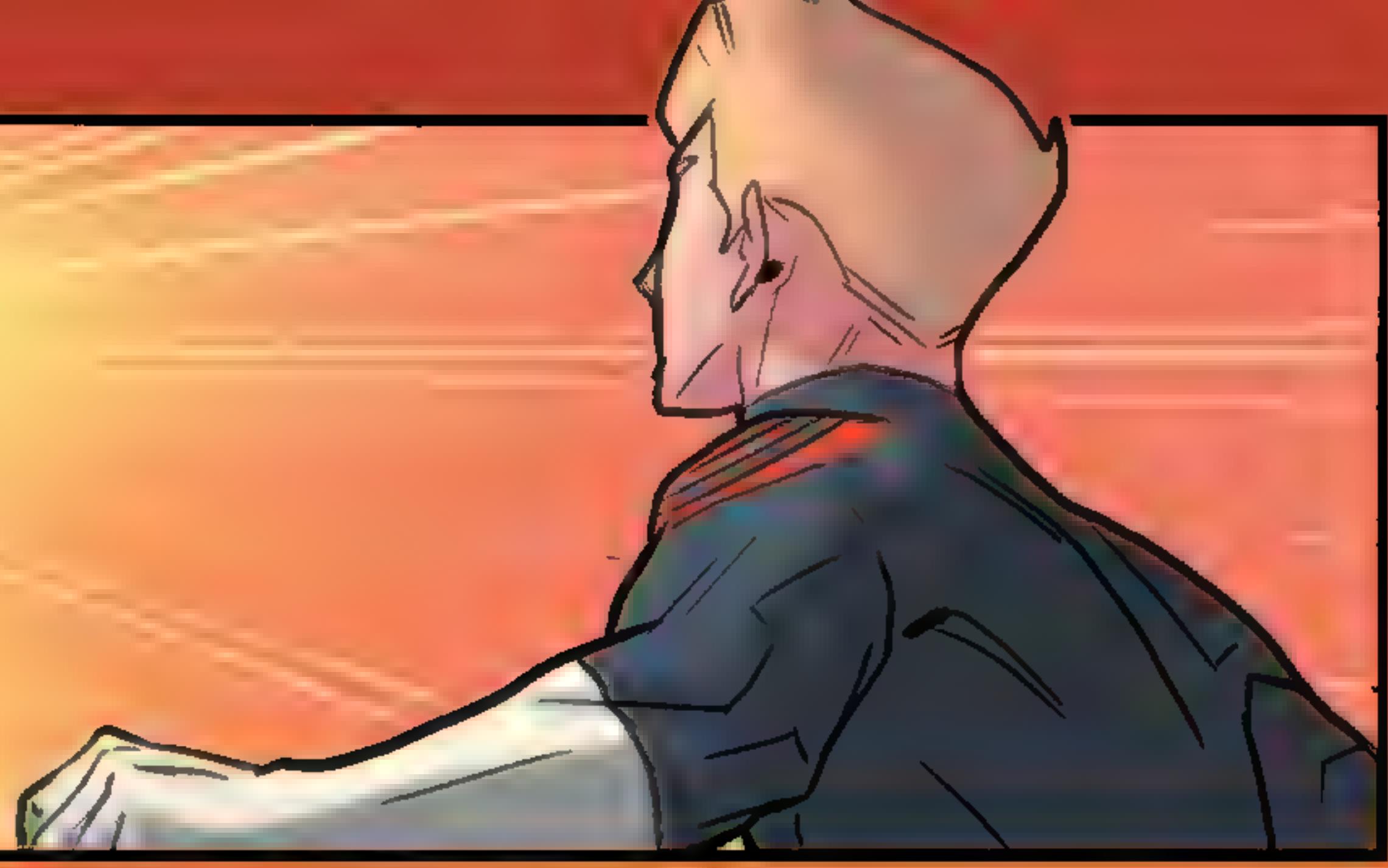
I KNOW YOU'RE THE VOICE IN MY HEAD, JEB. YOU DON'T HAVE TO PRETEND.

THE ROBOTIC FLYBOYS CAN BE DISABLED IF YOU STRIKE THEM HARD ENOUGH AT THE BASE OF THE SPINE.

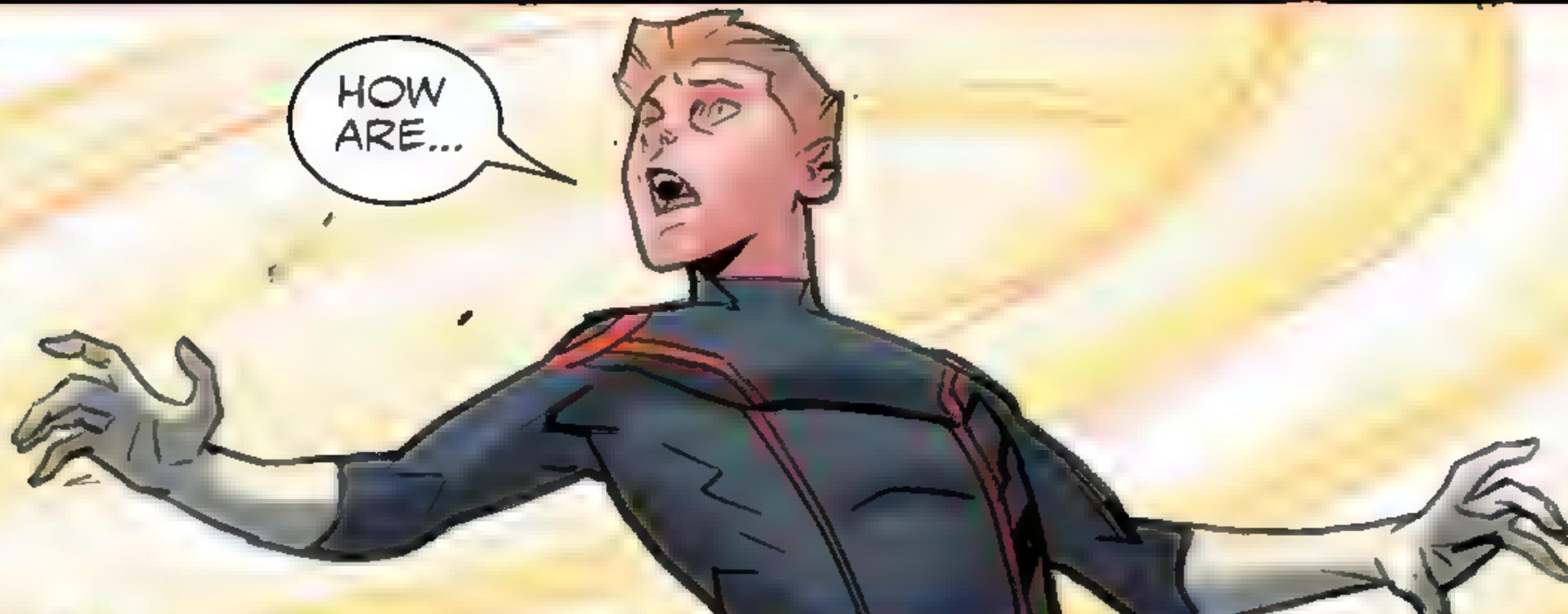
AND THE DIRECTOR-SHE UNDERESTIMATES YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS. PROVE HER WRONG.



THAT SHOULD KEEP HER ROBOT ARMY BUSY. AND NOW FOR HER LITTLE TOY.



HOW ARE...

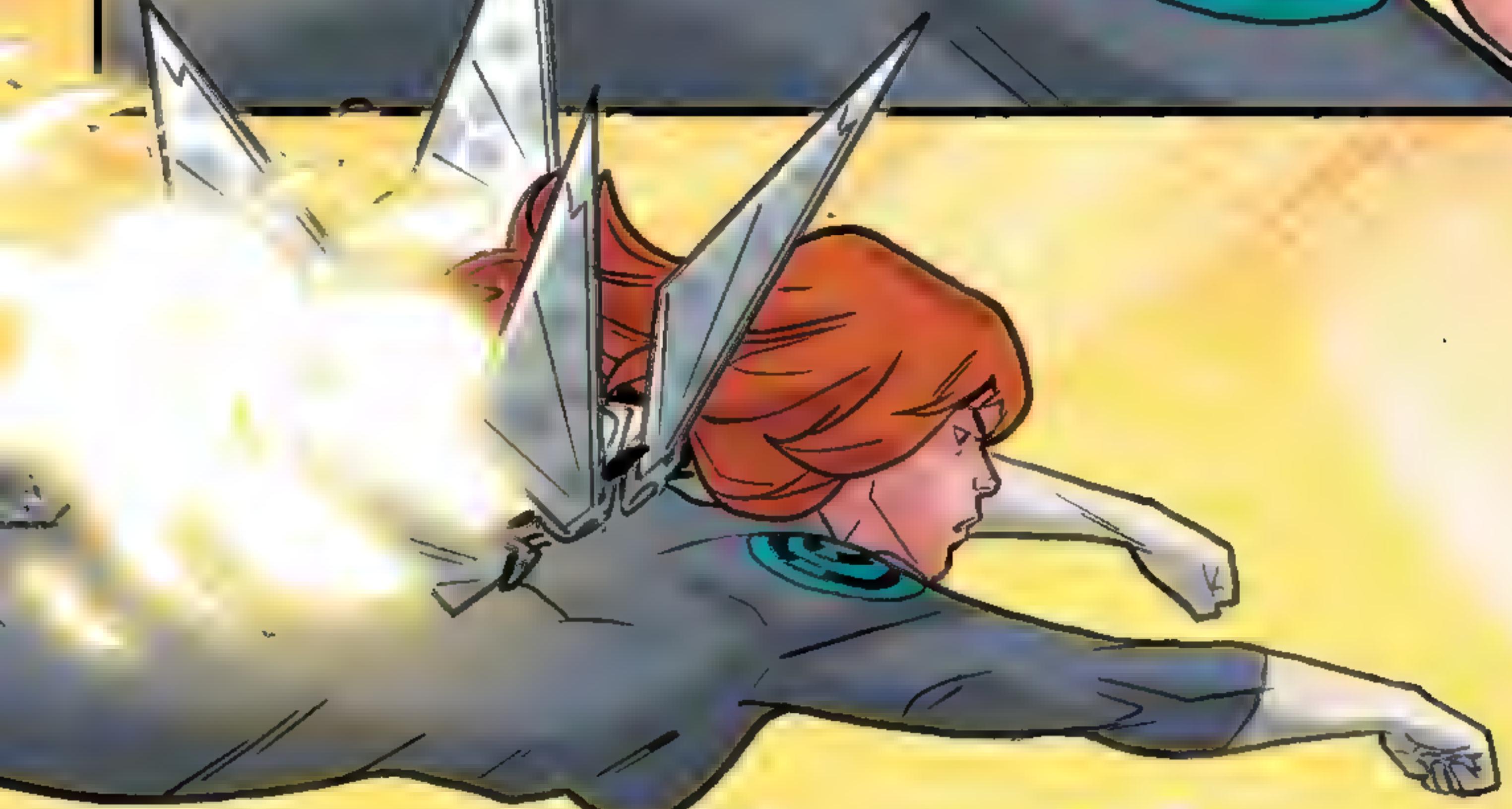


JEB'S RIGHT. AT TURBO SPEED, HE CAN'T TRACK ME.

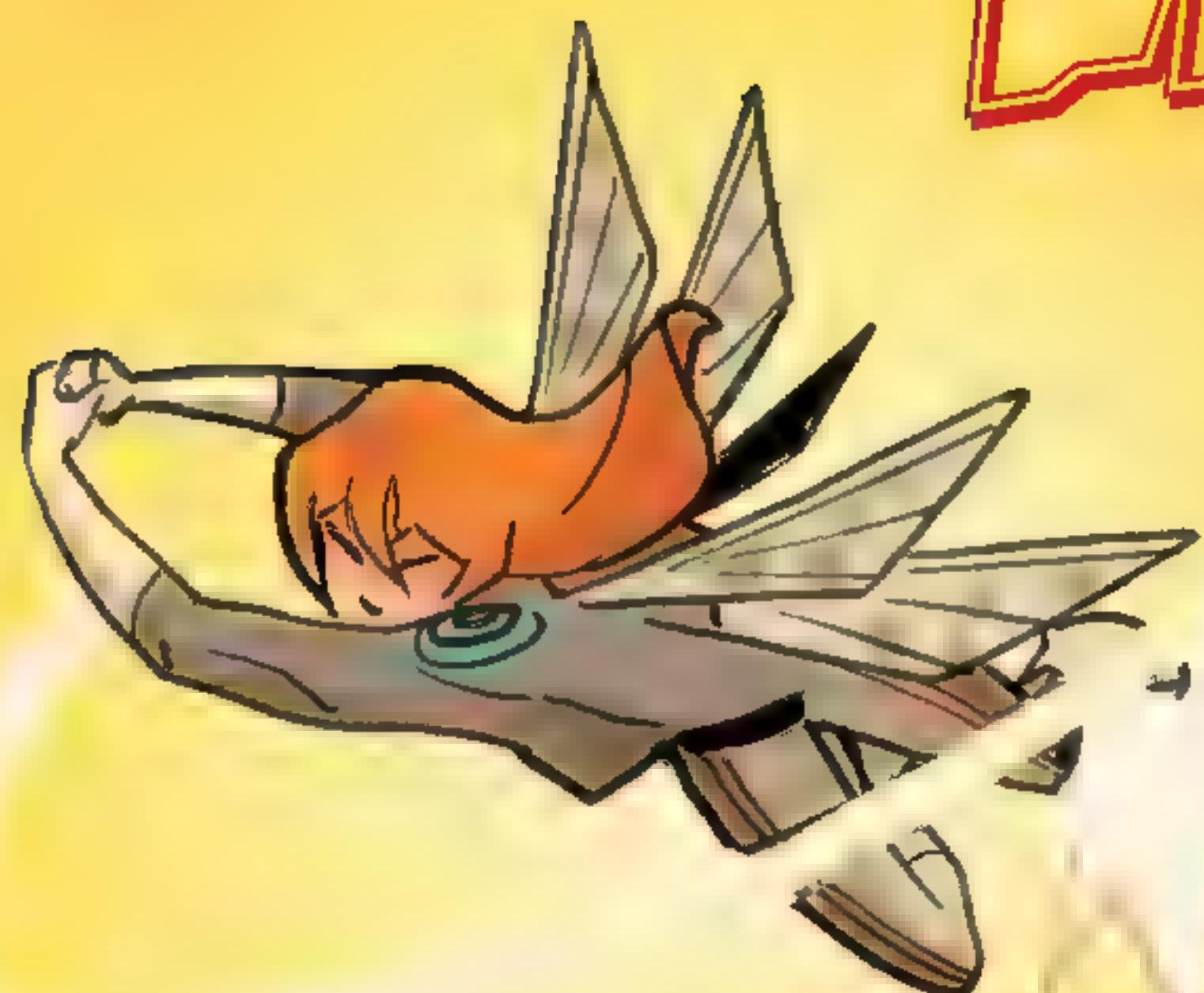
I GOT HIM.

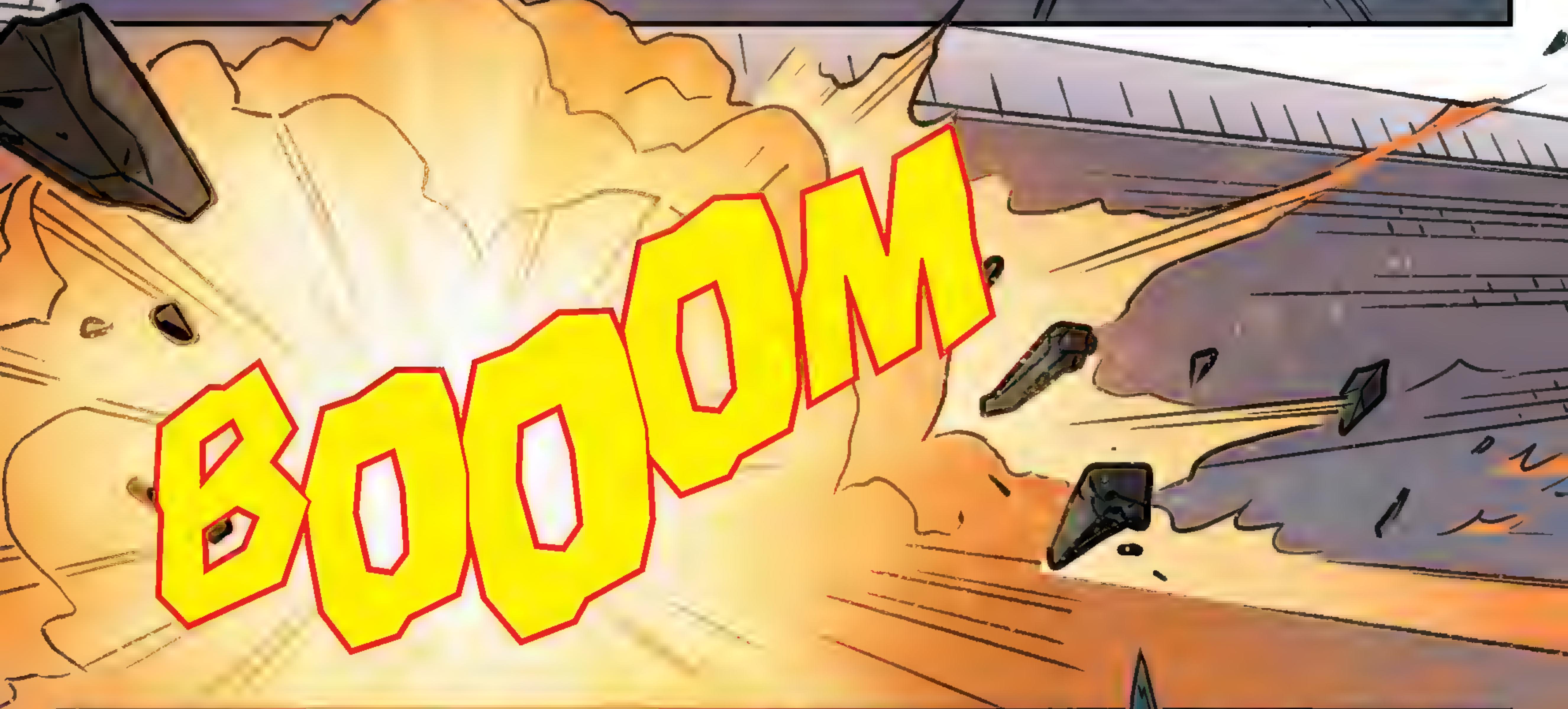
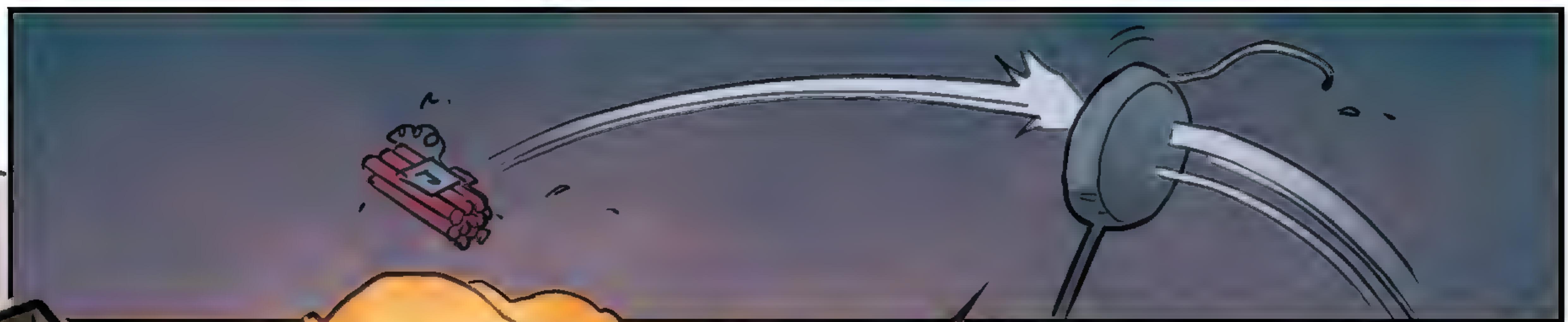


WHERE ARE YOU?!



WHAP







IN THE END, FANG AND I DIDN'T TALK MUCH ABOUT THE WHOLE "GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS" THING. WE DIDN'T REALLY NEED TO.

HE DID TELL JEB HE WAS SORRY ABOUT ARI, THOUGH. THAT'S SOMETHING.

IT'S CRAZY TO THINK THIS COULD ALL BE OVER NOW. RUNNING FOR OUR LIVES. TRYING TO FIND OUT WHY WE WERE MADE.

WE MIGHT ACTUALLY HAVE A HOME TO GO TO.

MORE THAN A HOME. A FAMILY.

BOTH THE FAMILY I MADE AND THE FAMILY I FOUND.

AND MAYBE I DON'T HAVE TO CHOOSE ONE OR THE OTHER AFTER ALL.

